



August 20, 2004

**Middletown man is sentenced to a year in prison for  
using Navy officer's credit card**

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**James Chantre stole a captain's coat and wallet during Mass at the  
Newport Naval Base Chapel of Hope**

A federal judge today sentenced **James Chantre**, 58, of Middletown, to 12 months in prison for credit card fraud. In May, Chantre admitted that he stole a Navy captain's coat and wallet during Mass at the Newport Naval Base Chapel of Hope and then used one of the officer's credit cards to fraudulently obtain cash from Western Union.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Citing Chantre's past record of similar conduct, Judge Smith imposed twice the maximum sentence called for under federal sentencing guidelines.

At the hearing in May at which Chantre pleaded guilty, Lieutenant Kevin Gerrity, a Navy Judge Advocate General prosecutor, said that the government had proof that, on November 1, 2002, Chantre accompanied his mother to the Chapel of Hope for the All Saints Day Mass. During the Mass, Chantre left the service area and went into the Chapel office, where he stole a female Navy captain's London Fog overcoat, which contained the captain's wallet.

Using one of the captain's credit cards, Chantre called Western Union on the Chapel office phone and, passing himself off as the card owner, persuaded Western Union to wire \$500

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to an acquaintance in New Mexico, charging the wire transfer and fees to the captain's card.

Chantre, of 283 Forest Avenue, pleaded guilty to two charges: credit card fraud and larceny under \$1,000. He has been detained at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, for approximately a month after violating his bail conditions.

Naval Station Newport Police investigated the case. Lieutenant Gerrity prosecuted it, with assistance from Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly.

-30-

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